

THE  
Righteous Evidence,  
Witnessing the TRUTH.

BEING  
An account of the Sickneſs, and Death-  
Bed Expreſſions, of  
Mr. William Bedlow:

Who Deceas'd at Bristol, the 20th. *K*  
of Auguſt, 1680.

With his Atteſtations which  
he left in Writing, for the good of  
this Nation, concerning the Late  
Damnable PLOT, Contriv'd by the  
PAPISTS.

With his Two Laſt PRAYERS.

LONDON

Printed for Philip Breakeſpeare, at the Golden-Ball,  
near the Hoſpital-gate, in 1680.

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An account of the Sickness, and Death-  
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Mr. William Bedlow:

Who Deceased at Bristol, the 20th. <sup>K</sup>  
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With his Two Last PRAYERS.

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LONDON,

Printed for Phillip Brooksby, at the Golden-Ball,  
near the Hospital, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1680.



## Mr. *Bedlow's* Attestations

Which he left in Writing, a  
little before his Death.



**M**y desire of securing truth from the Dangers of ill men, especially when the publick is concern'd, have prevail'd with to give a short Account of the Sickness and Death of Captain Bedlow.

On Munday the 9th. of this Instant, he came very ill from London, having the Head-ach, and an extream Looseness most part of that Day; the next Day after he came home, he was seized with a most violent Vomiting, and Looseness; Physicians were sent for, who attended him three days, but his Distemper increasing, on Thursday Two other Physicians were join'd in Consultation about him: his Disease still grew upon him, and he being very Apprehensive that it would issue in his Death, and understanding that the Lord Chief Justice

North

North would be there to hold the Assizes the 16th. Instant, expressed a very great desire to speak with his Lordship, for discharging of his conscience, in deposing somewhat which he had not before disclosed; with which his Lordship being made acquainted, was pleased that night at his request to go to him; before whom he did by many repeated assertions, upon the words of a dying man, declare, That in all the great business of the Plot, he spoke nothing against any Person upon Oath, or otherwise by way of Accusation, but what was true; and only complained that he had been too Timorous, and rather lessen'd his evidence in some particulars.

After some short time, the Company were desired to withdraw: and none being left with him but the Lord Chief Justice, Capt. Bedlows Clerk, and the Judges Clerk, My Lord gave the said Mr. Bedlow his Oath, and his Clerk took a pretty long Deposition in Writing, the Contents whereof are yet Secret: only thus far we know he made Oath, That whatsoever he had declared to the King and Council, and Secret Committee, and at the General Tryals upon Oath, were all true, upon the words of a dying man. He told the Judge he expected no Crown of Martyrdom for Lying, as the Papists did, but what he said sincerely true, as he was shortly



shortly to appear before the great Jehovah, the  
 maker of all flesh, where he should stand with  
 a clear conscience as to all matters of the Plot,  
 wherein he had given Evidence. He said more-  
 over to the Judge: My Lord, some will not  
 believe the Plot, or pretend it at least. My  
 Lord, I speak the more, because I know not  
 but that I may dye this night. He very often  
 said to my Lord Chief Justice with great ear-  
 nestness, My Lord! I pity the King! I pity  
 the King! His Life is in danger! they will  
 Poison, or cut him off! they are going towards  
 it! they are carrying on the Plot! the Papists  
 will kill him! When my Lord was going  
 away, he call'd him back again, took him by  
 the hand, and beg'd him to present his most  
 humble Duty to the King, and to tell him he  
 was his most Loyal and Dutiful Subject, and  
 to beseech him to take care of himself.

Tuesday the 17th. of August, towards the  
 Evening, he appear'd worse than he had been  
 all his sickness before, some about him ask-  
 ing him several questions about his Deposition  
 he replied, he was a very weak man; he  
 would talk no more of Temporal things.

B 2 Wednes-

Wednesday he had a severe fit; through the violence of which he spoke not for the space of 14 hours: on thereabouts. That day in the Evening his Speech returned to him; and he took some Refreshment; and asked those about him what day of the Month it was? and what hour of the day was it? One standing by, asked him if he were satisfied in his Conscience as to what he had sworn and acted in the publick business he had been involved in: and his answer was, That as he hoped for Salvation, all that he had sworn about the Plot was just and true; and that he had rather omitted, than augmented any thing he had given in Evidence. This he spoke the night before he died, and after he had been in a Trance several hours.

Fryday the 20th. of August Instant his Speech failed him again, and returned no more: and about Two of the Clock that Afternoon he expired.

Yesterday being Sunday, before he had been publicly exposed in Merchant Taylors Hall; in this City to the view of all Spectators, his Corps was carried thence about Six of the Clock in the Evening; and Buried in the Mayors Chappel, called the Gaunts: the Funeral was attended with a very numerous company

pany of Citizens, both Men and Women, Mr. Mayor, and others of the best Quality being present, several Gentlemen of the Council, and others hearing up the Pall. The Church was hung with Black. Dr. Palmer, a Reverend Divine of the City, Preached the foregoing Sermon at his funeral, which was upon these Words, Rom. 14. v. 12, 13. So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God: Let us not therefore judge one another any more, but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block, or an occasion to fall in his brothers way.

There were Escutcheons fixed to the Hearle with this Inscription in Black Letters in a Field Argent.

*Testimonium quod vivens Exhibuit  
Morius constanter Obfirmavit!*

*A Prayer in his Adversity, and for Mercy.*

**A**lmighty God, which for my ingratitude, and sinful life, hast worthily punished me with affliction and adversity, I most humbly beseech thee, to give me Grace utterly to detest and abhor my former wretched and sinful life, and study daily for the amendment of the same; and I am fully perswaded, that this affliction hath not come unto me by casualty, but by thy permission and deter-



determinate pleasure; and that thou dost beat me with this thy rod of correction, because thou wouldst nurture me, and call me to unfeigned repentance for my former life, to be more circumspect, of a good life: to exercise my Faith in thy godly promises, to try me whether I will be patient and constant in adversity: to make me abhor vain pleasures of this life, and with fervent and continual desire, long for the life everlasting; therefore I heartily pray thee, to strengthen my Faith, hope, Charity, and meekness, that I may patiently bear this thy fatherly Chastizement. and grant me, that I may daily increase more and more in love towards thee; for I hope all things shall happen to be best, whether it be prosperity, health, sickness, life or death; and therefore I wholly submit my self unto thee, and will resign all my will to thy most godly will and pleasure, hoping that thou wilt end this affliction, to thy honour and glory, and to my most profit, wealth, and everlasting Salvation, through Iesus Christ, my onely Saviour and Redeemer: *Amen.*

*Confession of his sins, and his Prayer for forgiveness of them.*

**O** Almighty God of Israel, my Soul that is in trouble, and my Spirit that is vexed, cry unto thee; hear me, O Lord, and have mercy upon me, for  
I

I have sinned against thee, I heartily pray  
 and beseech thee in the bowels of thy mercy,  
 to look down from Heaven upon me thy poor  
 servant, whose sins be infinite, and innumera-  
 ble, most Heinous and insupportable, but  
 as they be grievous and without number,  
 so is thy mercy more abundant and without  
 end. Thy mercy is above all thy Works,  
 more able to have, than my sin to Con-  
 demn. Thou, O Christ, art that good Sa-  
 viour, that pourest the Oil of Grace into  
 our wounds, thou art the only true Sacri-  
 fice and oblation once offered for the Sin  
 of the whole world. Therefore O sweet  
 Saviour, for the bitter Death and passion,  
 and for the Glory of thy Name, be mer-  
 ciful unto me, and forgive me all my sins.  
 Grant, that as through my wicked life, thou  
 hast been dishonoured, so through my Godly  
 Conversation and integrity of life hereafter  
 thou mayest be ever Glorified. Forgive me  
 (O my Saviour) all my sins, I most humbly  
 beseech thee, and keep me ever hereafter  
 from all sins. Grant me the assistance of the  
 Grace and Holy Spirit, to direct my ways, and  
 guide my paths, that I may be innocent from  
 all offences, and that in all things I may Hon-  
 our and praise thee, together with the Hea-  
 venly father, and the Holy Spirit, now and  
 for evermore: Amen. Finis.



